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THE MEDICAL SCHOOL IN BOSTON.

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Its founder, the eloquent brother of General Joseph Warren,* taught anatomy, surgery, physiology, obstetrics, not in lack of accomplished aspirants to these various, high subjects; he sufficed without foreign aid; "gave, borrowed not." His indulgent gentleness, in differing from his colleagues, invited respectful attention, and guards to the ardor of early professional life, "winning souls, *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re.*" The School dwelt not then in palaces, attracting admiration and respect; but in the attic of a drug-store, retired from jealous notice. The pupils, instead of assembling in commodious amphitheatres, followed the surgeon a dozen miles, to see a cataract couched! "We have no such lengths to go." Anatomical research, almost driven in labor, watch and peril, to rob graves, was even brought to the criminal dock.† To meet pecuniary costs of such sorrows, *esprit du corps* was appealed to; but self-reproach, "wounded spirit, who could bear?" Now, enlightened legislation fosters anatomical inquiry, and allays public apprehension.

A small cabinet treasured the anatomical museum, another the medical books; a sort of cave of little Holden-Chapel in Cambridge held chemistry. Now, besides its commodious quarters in the new Medical College, chemistry occupies half of Harvard Hall. The Prof. of Anatomy (Dr. Warren) has expended more than \$20,000 on his own museum, which is well arranged in that College, and more than \$3000 for a choice duplicate of our skeleton of the mastodon; to make it well accessible to inquirers, he will spend twice that sum.‡

* *Par nobilité!* may it be of their Paradise to know of our blessings and prospects, of which they were harbingers!—Gen. Warren left the medical profession, which he graced, for his country's service. We are not old enough to have seen him mount to heaven and reach a crown of glory; we had the edifying spectacle of Dr. Warren in self-forgetful, self-regardless daily course, richly earning a heavenly wreath. His, too, was generous martyrdom. His last illness followed immediately exposure to extreme, tempestuous weather, and fatigue, in his anxiety to meet extraordinary emergencies urging his professional notice.

† Only Mr. Daniel Webster's ingenious eloquence, sympathy, devotion, averted prison! but not exile beyond the circle of distressed, harrowed friends of the violated dead, and of public resentment, execration. That excellent teacher of anatomy, Dr. Thomas Sewall, was driven, in his household's apprehension and dismay, from his native Ipswich, Mass., to Washington, D. C., where, it was the bright part of his life, he enjoyed, to his death, Mr. Webster's good will and furtherance, which our profession gratefully acknowledge.

‡ When President Quincy, whose intimations have ever been locomotives of good will to Alma Mater, suggested that \$25,000 worth of books were needed in the University library; that,

A Samaritan, L., who never "passes by on the other side," proposes to grace our late Medical College with "Children, come!—of such is Heaven." Another temple of beneficence is planned, inscribed "Eyes to the blind!" On our hospital, might long ago have been written, "Feet to the lame!"

To Cicero's precepts, *De dolore tolerando*, he adds, *Lævatio aggritudinis omni e philosophia fructus uberrimus*—a tribute due to a prescription lately published here, to be hereafter fully and authentically developed, as to inducing sleepiness, insusceptibility of pain under surgical operations, by inhaling sulphuric ether vapor.*

May medical learning grace its palaces; instant, in season, out of season, minister, take care of, cherish, soothe, watch, wait, doubt, refrain, reform, elevate, instruct—try to heal—unspotted prove its uses, magnify its apostleship, fulfil its high, sacred vocation, its almost religion; *natura duce, bene agere ac lætari*.

Few, says Louis, have the talent, inclination for observation of disease, thorough regard for truth, elevation of character. The physician's is an office demanding greater sacrifices than any other: his is Cicero's motto, "*Non domus perjugium, non lectus ad quietem: multa pertuli, concessi, meo dolore sanavi.*"

DR. BETHUNE ON THE DISEASE KNOWN AS MORBID SENSIBILITY OF THE RETINA, ILLUSTRATED BY CASES.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal — Concluded from page 392.]

TREATMENT.—The first and most important is, as far as possible, to give the eyes *rest*, at least from all exertion of sight on small objects or such as require any great effort of vision. Reading, sewing, the exposure to lighted rooms, &c., should be carefully avoided. As a general rule the patient should be encouraged to go freely into the broad light of day, even though it temporarily aggravate the pain, as entire seclusion is apt to render the eye still more sensitive. For the same reason, for com-

duly to "consider the heaven, the moon and the stars," a great telescope should be provided, and other instruments, and a tower to receive them, which might cost \$50,000—salaries for observers, from \$1500 to \$2000—soon the books were ours, the tower was reared. Prof Pierce and Messrs. Bond will soon be sweeping the firmament through that wondrous object-glass! To this matter Mr. David Sears gave \$10,500. Mr. P. C. Brooks cast in \$10,000, that the President of the University may dwell in a palace, as he merits. (In olden time, "£150 were assigned for a house to be built for the President. The students were assessed 9d. per quarter for the support of public worship.")

* Our medical school's and our profession's "days of small things," our actual prosperity and reasonable expectations, recal to me "Lafayette's welcome" among us in 1834; the orator of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, now President of our University, alluding to Lafayette's youthful request of passage to this land, and our Government's reluctant, mortifying answer, "we have no means, even of so humble accordance to the noble offerer to our cause of his comfort and best blood." That we had been in such straits, then caused in him and other stout hearts near him in age, an overflow of emotion! That personification of patriotism, Judge Story, seemed as if supplicating "oh that my eyes were fountains!"—answer was graciously vouchsafed, to the prayer! Was any passage of Lafayette's life more illustrative of his merits, more likely to induce our substantial acknowledgment of them which cheered his old age! "Providence, kind and large," led our Country, University, our Medical School, from very small things to much greater! *Præcipui Academicam Deo administrari, ille satcrum voluit.*

mon use, shades, veils and colored glasses should be dispensed with though they may be occasionally allowed on extraordinary exposure. The diet should be regulated according to circumstances, as, like pure amaurosis, it may be connected with a vascular system, either overcrowded or the contrary. The same may be said of the use of bleeding, leeching, &c., but in addition the surgeon should be cautious in the repetition of bloodletting, as he is apt to be flattered by the temporary relief, which it sometimes gives, into carrying it to an extent which weakens the constitution, increases the general irritability of the patient, and indefinitely prolongs recovery. The not unfrequent complications of inflammation of the eye itself or of the lids, should of course receive due attention, and the removal of them will sometimes, but not always, be accompanied with the cure of the diseased retina. The most careful attention should be given to the general health of the patient. The following, among many instances, will show the necessity of keeping this always in view, and they also show that in some patients the eyes will not appear improved with the improvement of the general health. Even in these cases it is always an encouraging circumstance and much increases the chance of a good effect from the local remedies.

CASE XXV.—*Morbid Sensibility of the Retina.*—Elizabeth K., 32.
Jan. 21, 1845. Health not strong. Appetite good, but her food oppresses her; costive. Says she had a similar attack seven years ago, but got well and so remained till one year since, when the eyes began again to trouble her with pain through the balls, lachrymation on looking at objects, &c. Cold applications. Purgative pill at night.

31st.—No operation from medicine. R. Ch. s. mur. et rhei to-day; afterwards to take a laxative pill 3 in die.

Feb. 5th.—Eyes much improved. Sight clearer. Free operation from powder, and bowels well regulated by pill. Continue same.

19th.—Not so well. Burning and heat in eyes. Thinks she took cold in putting out clothes. Repeat cath. of 31st. Substitute warm for cold applications.

21st.—Vomited but not purged by powder. Eyes much the same. Take a cathartic, tr. rhei c. inf. sennæ, and repeat if no dejection.

24th.—Still costive. Repeat cath. and resume the laxative pill. To take only gruel for food.

26th.—Less burning in eyes. Stomach better and feels stronger. Eyes much stronger. Continue pil. p. r. n.

March 14th.—Still improving. Continue same. Bathe eyes with brandy and water.

19th.—Worse. Return of abdominal troubles and pain in left eye.

This patient was seen occasionally for a month, the state of her eyes varying with that of the stomach, &c., but on the whole decidedly improved. When last seen she was directed to continue the same means for regulating the stomach and bowels.

CASE XXVI.—*Morbid Sensibility of the Retina.*—Elizabeth B., 15.
Jan. 30, 1844. Health generally good. Never had disease of her eyes till two years ago last spring, when, without any cause that she knew of,

began to have a difficulty in threading her needle, &c. Can see objects distinctly at first, but on looking they soon fade. If she attempts to read she can see a line or two, then loses sight of the letters by "their running together." She is subject to headache.

On examination, nothing abnormal seen about the eyes. She is of large frame, plethoric habit, with flushed face, but her pulse is feeble. She was admitted to the House and remained there about three weeks, when she was discharged somewhat improved. Her treatment for the first fortnight was moderate leeching to the temples and small saline laxatives. Under this the head improved, but the eyes remained the same. She then made use of an ointment of veratriæ (gr. ij. to 3j. of cold cream), which in part relieved the eyes.

I have repeatedly seen the benefit of *purging*, where circumstances seemed to indicate it.

CASE XXVII.—*Morbid Sensibility of the Retina.*—Lydia W., 45. March 20, 1838. General health tolerably good. Left eye well. Right eye she says has troubled her since the cold weather. Is affected with weakness after exposure to light. Aching after sewing, with occasional pain above and below the orbit. Extremes of heat and cold also cause an unpleasant sensation. R. Hyd. sub. mur., gr. v.; pulv. rhei, gr. x. M., c. Rochelle powder in morning, if no operation. Four leeches to temple. Lotio frigida. Rest.

March 27th.—Has no pain of consequence above or below the orbit since the leeches. The only trouble now is from the weakness. Thinks a tepid fomentation more comfortable than cold applications. Substitute tepid for cold, and use colly. of zinc. Bowels costive. May take one of the following pills three times a-day, unless too much purging ensue. R. Pil. aloes et colocynth, 3 ss.; quinine sulph., gr. viij. M. Ft. pil. No. xij.

April 3d.—Free purging from pills, so that yesterday she took but one. *Feels much better.* Improvement in appetite. Removal of heaviness, which before oppressed her. Says she has no pain since in head or eye.

May 24th.—Eye about well. Has used it in fine sewing without sensible injury. Recommended to attend to general health. Discharged.

June 20th, 1839.—Patient re-appeared this day at Infirmary. Says that eye remained about the same for some time, but for the last six or seven months it has been getting more weak, and within three months the *left* eye has been affected in the same way. Has used them in sewing during the last year, though she felt them growing worse.

The same remark applies to the use of emmenagogues, tonics, stimulants, &c. Counter-irritation to the back of the neck or behind the ears is often extremely beneficial. Generally the use of mercury, at least if carried so far as to affect the gums, is likely to prove injurious rather than beneficial. In cases combined with pure amaurosis, however, I have known very marked benefit ensue from carrying it so far as gently to affect the system. The following is an instance where calomel was given in small doses for some time. It was probably a case of apoplexy of the choroid.

At least the suddenness of the attack and the ecchymosis under the conjunctival sclerotic, which appeared about ten days after the first attack, favor strongly this supposition. In this case the symptoms began to yield before the mouth became affected, and the use of the mercury was on that account intermitted.

CASE XXVIII.—*Morbid Sensibility of the Retina, with Amaurosis and Diplopia.*—Hannah O., 21. Jan. 31, 1846. For three years past has been subject to myopia, pain through eyeballs, &c. This affection first came on after reading at night. Two weeks ago, after having been up at night for five or six weeks, suddenly lost the sight of left eye, so that she could but just count her fingers at the distance of one foot from the eye. She was first seen by me one week ago, and was then ordered cold applications to the eye, and a powder of calomel, rhubarb and ipecac. She afterwards was blistered back of the ear, and applied to brows tr. aconit. fort. To-day she reports more pain, and her sight, which had somewhat improved, remains the same.

On examination, nothing abnormal to be seen. Has double vision. Cupped $\frac{5}{8}$ x. from temple. Omit acon.

Feb. 2d.—Relieved by cupping, and relief continued till yesterday P. M., when pain returned in left eye, less severe. Pain now with dimness and some "fire spots" before right eye. Has also pain between shoulders and in small of back. Stimulating liniment to spine.

5th.—Sight same. Pain much less. A small ecchymosed spot on left sclerotic.

7th.—Ecchymosis diminished. Other symptoms same. R. Pil. (s. mur. gr. j., c. op. gr. 1-4) nocte.

12th.—Very little pain. "Fire spots" lighter colored and fewer. Sight same. Con. pil. nocte.

17th.—Somewhat more pain. "Spots" more and darker. Vesicat. behind each ear.

22d.—"Spots" less, and again lighter colored. Sight same. Pill is continued.

28th.—Some aching in eyes. For three days past sight has somewhat improved.

March 3d.—Pain slight. Sight of both eyes improved. Has throbbing, with slight pain in both ears—worse in left. Two leeches in front of left ear. Continue pill.

7th.—Sight much improved. "Spots" gone. Mouth not sore. Pil. al. nocte.

17th.—No pain. Sees nearly as well as ever. Diplopia less. Continue same.

21st.—Eyes same. Rather more pain lately between shoulders and at sides. Omit pill. R. Quinine sulph., gr. j., 3 in die.

28th.—Slight return of pain, and "spots," more in left eye. Take a Rochelle powder, and resume pil. s. mur. gr. j. quaq. nocte. Omit quin.

7th.—Sight improved. Pil. al. nocte.

11th.—Again sight improved, but still slight double vision. Continue same.

25th.—Sight of right eye as good as ever. Left improved. Take pill twice a week.

May 21st.—Eyes as well as before attack. Pill once a week.

28th.—Same. Omit pill. Discharged.

Since the publication of Mr. Turnbull's work, the alkaloids of several of the ranunculaceæ have been extensively used in neuralgiæ, and especially in this country in amblyopia. My own experience is decidedly in their favor, though they very often fail even to relieve, and they very seldom effect a cure. I have, however, known many cases in which they have given great relief, and they may be of great use in this way by encouraging the patient while we are employing other additional means, which with time often put an end to the disease. I have not been *satisfied* that they differed essentially in their effects or in their curative powers, though I have suspected this to be the case in some instances. The main physiological action of all seems to be a power of benumbing or deadening, for a time, the cutaneous nerves to which they are applied. They may be used either in the form of an ointment or in that of an alcoholic solution. I have never known any *permanent* ill effect from their use, though they occasionally are productive of excessive irritation and pain. The main objection for the majority of patients is their expense, and on this account it is better to use but a small quantity at a time, and to watch its effects.

The observations of Dr. Fleming, in his admirable monograph on the aconite, induced me to use the tincture as an external application. I accordingly had some prepared according to his directions, which is four times stronger than the common tincture, and this I have ordered to be rubbed once a-day for some minutes in the neighborhood of the eye. In many instances I have been satisfied of its good effect. So powerful a narcotic should be used with caution, however, as it will be seen that its external application twice in one day was attended with some rather serious symptoms.

Lotions, &c.—So far as one remedy by its effects goes to show any pathological state, inflammation, or at least congestion of the deeper-seated vessels, would seem indicated by the effects of cold applications in the great majority of cases of this disease. They have been in my experience, with a few exceptions, by far the most grateful and useful. I have now and then met with a patient who has found the re-action so great as to counterbalance the soothing effect attendant on their first application. This, however, has been comparatively rare. I usually direct the frequent application of cloths wet in cold water to the eyes, and their repetition as often as convenient. In some cases, especially in very hot weather, the water may be iced with advantage. Some patients who will not bear simple cold applications, I have found much benefited by the addition of a stimulant, as brandy. Indeed, for many, after using for a time the water *alone*, I have directed *this* with advantage. To be used four or five times a-day. I usually advise that it should be applied above and below the eye at the same time that a little is allowed to reach the globe itself, beginning with one fourth to

one fifth of brandy, and gradually increasing in strength as the patient becomes accustomed to its effects. Where disease of the lids is complicated with amblyopia, tepid applications are often required. Two or three of the cases in which this disease was combined with tinea or lip-pitudo, will illustrate these comparative exceptions.

There is so great a variety in the different cases of patients affected with this disease, that each individual becomes to a certain extent a separate study. For instance, while we find many who complain bitterly of the aggravation of their troubles by the fatigue, variety of objects, &c., in travelling; others, on the contrary, in the excitement of the change of scene and movement seem almost to forget them. In perhaps the majority the eyes are less troublesome in the earlier part of the day. In some, however, this is precisely the time, before their eyes have become accustomed to the change from darkness, when the sensibility of the eyes is most acute. I have known some in whom there appeared a great sensibility of the eye during sleep, in whom the shade of the closed lids was insufficient unless the room in which they slept was made perfectly dark, and I have even known several in whom the first movement towards recovery was made by attending to this apparently trivial circumstance.

It will, of course, be understood that in this, as in every other disease connected with a deranged nervous action, it is of the utmost importance to keep up in the patient, as far as possible, a cheerful spirit and a full confidence in ultimate recovery. I am aware that this is often no easy task, for the deprivation of the use, in great part at least, of so essential an organ as the eye, is in many a source of irritation and despondency, which it may be difficult to meet. Occupation of some kind must be earnestly recommended, if possible of an agreeable character, and so far as it goes calculated to aid in the cure. The active sports and amusements, riding, especially on horseback, are useful to this end. I have often found it adviseable to urge patients entirely to relinquish an employment which has given rise to this disease. It is sometimes necessary to remind them that there are many persons whose eyes are never sufficiently strong to enable them to get their living by employments which demand much accuracy of sight, though had they not been called on to exert their eyes in that way, they might never have suspected that they were at all defective.

CASE XXIX.—*Morbid Sensibility of the Retina.*—Susan M., 19. Operative in a Silk Factory. Jan. 5, 1846. Says that her health is tolerably good, though her appetite is indifferent and her strength is not great. Present disease is of one year's standing. She complains of pain through the eyeballs, of "blur" before the eyes when she uses them, and of nictitation and weight in the lids. R. Sol. ferri citrat. (gr. ij.) 3 in die. Lotio frigida. Exercise.

17th.—Improved. More appetite. Less pain in eyes, and blur. Apply *once* a-day to the closed lids a mixture of ol. rosmarini c. alcohol.

20th.—Applied prescription *twice* a-day, followed by swelling of lids.

To-day the eyes are better than ever, and the appetite and strength are improved. Continue prescription once a-day only.

24th.—Eyes stronger. Less weight. Continue same.

March 3d.—More pain this morning. Has omitted drops for five days. Resume them.

April 28th.—Got much better, and so remained till she went to work last week, when the eyes again became worse. Weight of lids, throbbing of eyes, &c. Omit work. Resume application to lids. Tepid lotion.

In this disease, perhaps above all other diseases of the eye, it is necessary to prepare ourselves for repeated returns of the pain, weakness and sensibility of the eyes, often on slight exposure, sometimes without any that we can trace. The patient should, therefore, be impressed with the necessity of prudence in the use of his eyes when they first begin to get better. For want of this caution I have frequently known the case retarded for many months; and it often happens that after an imprudent exposure during convalescence, it requires a longer time to bring back the eyes to the point of improvement to which they had previously arrived, than was necessary to effect all that had been gained from the commencement of the attack.

THE INHALATION OF ETHEREAL VAPOR, &c.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I was much pleased in perusing a paper in your Journal of last week, by Dr. Flagg, of Boston, on the inhalation of ethereal vapor in certain cases requiring surgical operations; and I am happy in being able to say, that his views are those of the profession generally in this region, so far as I have been able to learn their opinions. It seems to us not only ridiculous, but absolutely wrong, for any physician to adopt a course of action so entirely contrary to the spirit of the rules of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and to those high and just principles which have generally governed the members of our profession.

If Dr. Morton *has* really made a new discovery, let him be contented to stand on the same footing with *other* physicians of equal merit, who have made *many* and important discoveries in medicine and surgery; and let the consciousness of having done a good deed for humanity, the gratitude of an intelligent community, and the praises of a liberal profession, be a sufficient reward, without a desire, on his part, to make a fortune at the expense of "suffering humanity," and of all just rules of our profession.

Why did not Dr. Stearns, when he discovered the medicinal properties of ergot, get the right of using it patented, and allow no one to use it, but those who bought the privilege of him? Why have not a hundred similar discoveries in medical science, been patented ere this? Why? Because there has been, and *I hope always will be*, too much honor in the medical profession to allow such a course of conduct, in any one of its members.

Does any one suppose that he will be able, by a brazen front, and threats which are so freely thrown into the market, to intimidate the profession, and prevent them from using a well-known medicine, when, how and where their judgment may dictate? If so, I think that gentleman, whoever he may be, will find himself *egregiously disappointed*. Physicians in this vicinity, I am satisfied, will use the ether if they have occasion so to do, previous to dental or surgical operations; and if ether alone does not answer the purpose, they can easily find, I think, a compound that will do as well as the *patented* vapor.

While spending an evening a short time since, in a social party, composed mostly of literary friends, the inhalation of an ethereal compound formed a part of the amusements of the occasion. The compound used in this case was composed of sulph. ether, water and morphine, with a few drops of diluted sulphuric acid. This mixture was inhaled through a common retort, with a ground stopper at the apex of the globe. The effects which it had on those who inhaled it were similar, if not identical, with those produced by the *vapor* now so much in vogue. One young lady, in particular, came so completely under the influence of it, that, had she an aching tooth, I think I should have tried my skill at extracting. I do not know, however, as this compound has any advantages over the ether alone; I doubt, myself, whether it has, for this substance has been long known to have those peculiar effects ascribed to the "new vapor." On this point, however, every physician can satisfy himself by a few simple experiments, and will, without doubt, find a substance that will answer all practical purposes, and that, too, without being obliged to sacrifice his professional dignity, by patronizing quackery.

So. Reading, Nov. 10th, 1846.

J. D. MANSFIELD.

MESMERISM.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In the No. of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of Nov. 18th, appeared the following editorial notice:—

"*Operations without Pain*.—In the leading article of this day's Journal, by Dr. H. J. Bigelow, the profession will notice that an impression exists here, in Boston, that a remarkable discovery has been made. Unlike the farce and trickery of mesmerism, this is based on scientific principles, and is solely in the hands of gentlemen of high professional attainments, who make no secret of the matter or manner."

This attack upon mesmerism affords me an opportunity to offer a few remarks upon a subject which has been tested much longer than the inhalation of sulph. ether for producing insensibility during operations, and has been investigated by individuals whose standing as scientific men would not appear unfavorably by the side of members of our own Massachusetts Medical Society. Many distinguished and scientific men in Europe, after long and patient investigation, have given in their strong

adhesion—Cuvier, La Place, Georget,* Andral, Broussais, Deleuze, Bailly and many others whose names might be adduced.

To deny the existence of mesmerism (as was observed by Dr. Marc before the Academy of Medicine at Paris) would be to suppose that men of the greatest merit, two learned bodies of the first respectability, and governments known for having surrounded themselves with the best physicians, must have, in various places, and at various periods of time, fallen the dupes of miserable jugglers, and propagated, favored, and executed labors merely chimerical.

Orfila, who must be considered good authority, has said—"If there exists trickery and quackery in mesmerism, its adversaries are too hasty in refusing to admit all that has been asserted in regard to its effects. The testimony of enlightened physicians should be considered as proofs. If the magnetic phenomena appear extraordinary, the phenomena of electricity appeared equally marvellous in its origin. Whether magnetism acts in good or in evil, it is clearly a therapeutic agent, and it behoves both the honor and the duty of the Academy to examine it."

In 1826, a committee was appointed by the Section of Medicine of the Royal Academy at Paris, to investigate anew the phenomena of mesmerism. Their investigations were pursued at different times for several years, and a report submitted in 1831, with a detail of the cases which passed under their observation. The following are some of the conclusions at which the committee arrived:—

1st. A certain number of the effects observed appeared to us to depend upon mesmerism alone, and were never produced without its application. These are well-established and therapeutic phenomena.

2d. We hold it as demonstrated that the sleep has been produced in circumstances, in which the persons mesmerized could not see or were ignorant of the means employed to occasion it.

3d. The greater number of the somnambulists whom we have seen were completely insensible. Finally, we saw one who was insensible to one of the most painful operations in surgery,† and who did not manifest the slightest emotion in her countenance, her pulse, or her respiration.

4th. Considered as a cause of certain physiological phenomena, or as a therapeutic remedy, mesmerism ought to be allowed a place within the circle of the medical sciences, and consequently physicians only should practise it, or superintend its use, as is the case in the northern countries.

5th. They say that they have communicated in their report facts of sufficient importance to entitle them to think, that the Academy ought to encourage the investigations into the subject of mesmerism as a very curious branch of psychology and natural history.

This report (I conceive) bears great weight in favor of mesmerism, not merely on account of the facts which it produces, but emanating

* It is recorded of Georget, an eminent physician of Paris, that he was converted from infidelity to christianity by witnessing experiments in mesmerism; and this he left recorded in his will.

† The removal of a cancer from a female. The operation lasted some ten or twelve minutes; the dressings were all properly applied, and patient placed in bed, without for a single instant showing the slightest indication of pain or appearing conscious, and all this without any shock to the system.

REMARKS ON THE INHALATION OF ETHER PREVIOUS TO SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

By W. Clay Wallace, M.D., New York.

THE effects of the inhalation of ethereal vapor are thus stated by Pereira, in his *Materia Medica*.

"When the vapor of ether, sufficiently diluted with atmospheric air, is *inhaled*, it causes irritation about the epiglottis, a sensation of fulness in the head, and effects analogous to those caused by the protoxide of nitrogen; moreover, persons peculiarly susceptible of the action of the one are also powerfully affected by the other (*Journal of Science*, vol. iv., p. 158). If the air be too strongly impregnated with ether, stupefaction ensues. In one case this state continued, with occasional periods of intermission, for more than thirty hours: for many days the pulse was so much lowered that considerable fears were entertained for the safety of the patient. In another case an apoplectic condition, which continued for some hours, was produced."

The inhalation of the protoxide of nitrogen, as is well known, produces different effects. Cases have occurred in which it produced symptoms so alarming that it is not now usual to administer it indiscriminately at colleges. In my own case I felt the vessels of the brain suddenly distended; there was a feeling as if the skull were too small for its contents; the calvaria seemed to be forced upwards; and there was pressure in the interior of the ears, with a distant ringing sound. There was an irresistible tendency to laughter, which afforded much relief by forcing the unaccustomed fluid from the air passages. The usual symptoms soon passed off, but I was not free from a disagreeable feeling in the head for months afterwards.

The reports of public institutions show that many of the cases of insanity are produced by alcohol. There are few who can be made what is termed dead drunk with impunity, should they even escape the horrors of delirium tremens or actual apoplexy.

Like alcohol, sulphuric ether excites, intoxicates and produces insensibility, but it also possesses another property which deserves attention—when the vapor is mixed with atmospheric air, *it will explode*. Should a patient made insensible by ether be operated upon by candle light, the chances are, that the air passages would form an eudiometer and produce a serious concussion.

The novel application of ether to the alleviation of suffering is a great boon to the public; yet it should be considered, that, although a person of sound general health may survive its effects, there is risk of rupturing the vessels of the brain, and that it is dangerous to be made *dead drunk, by any cause*. Should there be a tendency to apoplexy or mania, or should the patient be unusually sensitive, the prescriber may find himself in a position that few would envy.

I have been led to these remarks, by recollecting to have heard, that, some time after it had become a fashionable panacea for deafness to force injections into the Eustachian tube, a person in London died in the operator's hands; and by having seen a case where alcohol produced insensi-

bility, out of which the patient never recovered. It will be surprising if we do not hear of cases of insensibility from ether, which may induce government to prohibit its administration except in cases of unwonted severity. The inhalation of an intoxicating drug has produced disastrous effects in China, and if a habit more pernicious than that of the use of alcohol should be here introduced, it is to be feared that it might spread, notwithstanding edicts or lawsuits.

ARE INVENTIONS IN SURGERY AND IN CHEMISTRY LEGITIMATE SUBJECTS FOR PATENTS?

By a Correspondent who has no Property in Patent Rights.

SEVERAL correspondents of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, in their remarks concerning the patent granted by the general government, to Drs. Morton and Jackson, for their new and important discovery by which pain may be prevented or alleviated in surgical operations, seem to proceed upon the ground, that the patent has been issued for a *secret process*. This is a mistake on their part; and, if they will reflect for a moment, or merely possess themselves of the ordinary law-knowledge upon the subject, they will perceive the error into which they have so inadvertently fallen.

No patent is or can be granted for a secret process. The very meaning of the word "patent" is "open," public, not private or secret; and the very first prerequisite of a patent is that the inventor shall furnish the government with a written description of his discovery, so that any one skilled in the art or science to which it appertains, may *know* how to make and use the same; and so that at the expiration of the term during which the law secures the exclusive right of the discovery under a patent to the inventor, the public at large may be at full liberty to make and use such discovery. These are the words of the law: "But before any inventor shall receive a patent for any such new invention or discovery, he shall deliver a written description of his invention or discovery, and of the manner and process of making, constructing, using and compounding the same, in such full, clear, and exact terms, avoiding unnecessary prolixity, as to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which it appertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make, construct, compound and use the same."

The authority to grant patents is established by the Constitution of the United States, which declares that "Congress shall have power to promote the progress of *science* and *useful arts*, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors, the *exclusive right* to their respective writings and discoveries."

The object of the framers of this clause in the Constitution, was undoubtedly to sharpen the wit and ingenuity of the people, to stimulate citizens of every class in their researches and labors—to encourage them, by the prospect of an adequate remuneration, under an exclusive right for a term of years, to delve into the secret recesses of nature and art, and

discover, reduce to practice and bring out to public view and use, every improvement or invention to be found, devised or thought of, for the comfort, preservation, health or happiness of the race.

Nearly if not all great inventions have been patented; and were it not for the Constitution, the laws, and the decisions of the tribunals, in this behalf, very few new modes, great improvements or processes would be made—or if made at all, be promulgated to the community at large. They would be wrought in private—practised and kept in secret; and, perishing at the death of those who gave them birth, be lost to mankind.

The correspondents above alluded to, also appear to think that patents cannot be granted for improvements in surgery and chemistry. This is another mistake on their part, which they will be convinced of at once, by merely reading the statute. The law of patents is based upon the article in the Constitution already quoted; and in the words of a section of that law, patents are granted "for any new and useful *art*, machine, manufacture or *composition* of matter, or any new and useful *improvement* on any art, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter."

No distinction, it is manifest, is or can be made in favor of one set of men or profession over another. Mechanics, dentists, surgeons, artificers, chemists, and others—all possess equal privileges, each having as unquestionable a right as the other, to receive letters patent for any invention or discovery he may make in or out of his own professional walk or calling. And the property of each in these rights is alike protected by the courts and laws. And surgery being an art, as much as chemistry is a science, it is equally obvious that it would be as vain to assert that a patent could not be issued for an improvement in surgery, as that a patent could not be granted for an improvement in chemistry—even if it were not a notorious fact that letters patent are annually granted, in almost every other nation as well as our own, for improvements in both surgery and chemistry.

What would dentists, surgeons or chemists say, if they were not allowed rights common to the humblest mechanic—to every class in the community; if they alone were denied the privilege of taking out letters patent for any discovery or improvement they might make in their vocation, or for the benefit of humanity? Do they not charge, and are they not entitled to fees for their services—in all cases where fees can and ought to be paid?

The novelty and usefulness of a discovery is first tested at Washington. A thorough examination must there be made in the first instance. The public examiners and Commissioner of Patents must fully investigate the subject, and ascertain, to a certainty, that the discovery is absolutely new and useful, before any patent can be granted by the government.

In actions against infringers for appropriating to their own use the inventions of others, the burden of the proofs and trial is in general upon the defendants. Those who undertake to possess themselves of what does not legally belong to them, must prove, by disinterested and conclusive evidence, the grounds upon which they attempt to violate the rights or invade the property of the patentees. "The inventor," to use the words

of Mr. Justice Woodbury, at the trial of Hovey *vs.* Henry, in November last, "holds a property in his invention by as good a title as the farmer holds his farm and flock."

But let the law be as it may, there are in every community, and probably always will be, persons constantly on the look out, ever ready and eager to avail themselves of the labors and inventions of others. When they are about to seize upon an improvement of some one else, they commonly begin by crying out that *they* thought of it before, *they* first attempted or accomplished it themselves—and then proceeding to appropriate the benefit of it to their own private use, they endeavor to make the most of their "ill-gotten gains"—as long as they can set justice at defiance, or hold on with impunity.

It is a matter worthy of particular note, that while the celebrated chemist and foreigner Shoenbein, has been securing letters patent in the United States and in all parts of the civilized world, for his great discovery (gun cotton), for the direct injury of mankind or the more certain destruction of human life; our countryman, Dr. Morton, has been securing letters patent at home and abroad for the infinitely greater discovery made by him and Dr. Jackson, for the prevention or alleviation of pain, the preservation of health and human existence. Dr. Shoenbein's chemical discovery was patented here in December last. It applies not only to cotton, but all fibrous materials; and all persons who have used his discovery, since his application was made to our government, and all who may now be infringing upon his rights, in this country, are undoubtedly liable for damages, according to the statutes.

PRACTICAL ANATOMY IN NEW YORK.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I perceive by your last No. that a correspondent in New York has directed attention to events which have recently transpired in that city in relation to anatomical *materiel*, and the circular of the University (in Broadway above Bleecker Street). It is by no means my intention to complain either of the tone or spirit of the communication alluded to, but as my name is brought in, I shall offer a few words of explanation. Those who have read the Circular of the University of New York, for the present year, must have remarked the similarity in tone, the correspondence in language, and the same recklessness of assertion, which characterize the advertisements of Brandreth, Moffat, *et id genus omne*, of "the great commercial emporium." Now for my own part I should have been willing to let pass their announcement of the resources of New York for clinical instruction in the many valuable institutions of that city; I should have been willing to let the students who gather there find out, *if they could*, the boasted advantages; I should have been willing that they might be quietly permitted to *talk* of the N. Y. Hospital with its "two thousand patients" and its "library of five thousand volumes"—(less than twenty out of four hundred *published* names on the University catalogue, attended

this institution in 1845-6)—of the "Eye and Ear Infirmary" with its "fifteen hundred patients"—of "Bellevue Hospital" with its "two thousand patients," and of the "various dispensaries" with "more than fifty thousand patients;" I say I should have been willing to let these things pass, for the reason that I knew students who might go there for instruction would soon find out the truth, and that their astonishment would be considerably increased when they found that, with the exception of Dr. Mott as Consulting Surgeon to the Hospital, not a solitary member of this boasting Faculty is connected with, *nor likely to be*, any of the institutions alluded to. When, however, they came out with an attack upon "Schools of Medicine in almost all parts of the country;" when one of their number had stated their intention to cripple "country schools," and declared, among others, that "Geneva College" would have to close her doors, we thought it quite time to prove that Geneva College could and would protect herself, and, if necessary, "carry the war into Africa."

I must dissent from the views of your correspondent when he says, "this harmless circular, which is all very well in the way of a puff." If it be "harmless," is it justifiable? Speaking of the University, the Secretary says, "by order of the Faculty," "its march is onward, its success more than its best friends could have hoped for; and the Faculty pledge themselves to spare no labor nor expense to carry out the fulfilment of their design—the building up a national school worthy of the country and the age." I am aware all this is for a southern market! but can that be "harmless" to the profession at large, which comes forth as this circular does, with deception upon its very title page? Again, is it "harmless" to the profession that men who have been detected in the most wholesale plagiarisms, who have announced translations of works from the French when they had employed another to perform the task,—I ask is it "harmless" to the profession, when such men, placed unfortunately in an important position, come out in the Brandrethian style, and talk of building up a "national school worthy of the country and the age"!

There is an establishment in the great "commercial emporium" in Nassau Street, called "the New York College of Medicine and Pharmacy," "established A. D. 1840 (one year before the University), for the suppression of quackery," the members of which "direct their particular attention to all diseases, &c.," "cure guaranteed." Compare the advertisements of this "College" with the Circular of the "University" in the Stuyvesant Institute, and judge which will be most effectual "for the suppression of quackery"!

Your correspondent says, "the war does not seem to be at an end." I hope he will report progress. He can judge of the views of the profession in his own city in relation to the "University of the city of New York;" and if the direction of their students is any evidence, they very generally think there is another school in their city, influenced by more liberal, high-minded and honorable principles, than the one that makes such boasting pretensions on so small capital.

Respectfully, yours, &c.

Geneva, N. Y., Dec. 7th, 1846.

JAS. WEBSTER.

 THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

 BOSTON, DECEMBER 23, 1846.

Apparatus for Inhaling the New Gas.—In the face of the patent, or a caveat, it is not material which, instruments used in administering the gas, made principally of glass, with metallic fixtures, such as a mouth-piece, valves, &c., are manufactured in this city to a great extent. One person assured us that the demand far exceeded his ability to manufacture the article. Several individuals not only advertise that they prepare the *air of forgetfulness*, but that they have the apparatus also—and from what is bruited about the town, a thriving business is conducted by those who stand in no fear of the law of patents. Strangers applying for agencies and solicitous to obtain the original article, while such rivalry exists, will be puzzled to recognize the real Simon Pure. It is further stated that agents have gone to remote cities in the States, and even to various countries, to introduce the benefits of the discovery; but in this enterprise all parties, says report, are equally active, and it is not improbable, therefore, that considerable misapprehension and embarrassment will grow out of these anomalous proceedings. Some of the artists consider that the administration of the gas, only, was secured by the patent, and not the instrument; others are of the opinion that such a gas-holder as they produce, is no infringement of a right secured to others, inasmuch as their work is an invention of their own. Thus, there is no end to the ingenuity or sophistry of those who dispute the validity of the patent, or are determined to profit by the discovery of the new pain-preventive power. One of the next phases of the matter will be law suits, thick as flowers in May. And it is not a little curious in the history of the affair, that the opposition forces seem to glory in the prospect of a war with the gas proprietors, in whatever form it may come. In the meanwhile, we are looking on with intense interest, hoping for the discovery of new truths in physiology; and further, that in the end, humanity may be a permanent gainer by this friction of intellect, and operative surgery divested of some of its terrors.

In to-day's Journal will be found a communication from a legal gentleman, drawn up at our request, in which the validity of the patent is strenuously maintained. Since that article was in type, we have been informed, through a letter from Prof. C. A. Harris, M.D., of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgeons, that his colleague, Dr. Bond, had consulted one of the first lawyers there, stating to him the whole case; and his opinion is that there is nothing patentable in the matter, and that letters patent for it are worthless. We have similar information and assurance from Drs. Roper and Flagg, of Philadelphia, who have consulted competent legal judges in that city.

Philadelphia College of Physicians.—A summary of the Transactions of this College, from September to November, 1846, in 56 octavo pages, has been distributed. The papers of this excellent institution command

our admiration—for science and industry characterize the labors of the members. The annual report on the theory and practice of medicine, by Dr. S. Jackson, is an energetic performance. His classical brilliancy was a perfect cordial the dull evening we sat down to read it. Medical gentlemen are frequently complimented by the College in being elected associates, but rarely in this direction. Mention is made of that distinction being conferred on Dr. S. C. Warren, of Boston. No such person is found on the catalogue of physicians in this city.

Believers in Mesmerism.—Without much qualification, it has been asserted, far and wide, that highly cultivated, intellectual people, invariably look with contempt upon mesmerism. It is wholly in the care and keeping of second-rate minds—or those addle-headed persons whose zeal in the pursuit of wonders is wholly without the controlling influence of judgment. A writer assures us that a correspondent was entirely mistaken in asserting that Dr. Lee, editor of the New York Medical Journal, entertains any confidence in this modernized hocus pocus, which is peddled out to the vulgar like barley candy, and at about the same price. However insane Dr. Fahnestock may be on the subject, Dr. Lee is in his senses yet—being a staunch disbeliever in the miscalled science of animal magnetism.

New York Correspondence.

Academy of Medicine and Surgery.—The regular members of the medical profession of New York city are organizing themselves into an "Academy of Medicine and Surgery," somewhat analogous to the "Association" which has so long and so happily existed among the fraternity of Boston. We learn that a preliminary meeting has been held during the last week, which was called by Dr. Mott, Dr. Stevens and Dr. Wood, respectively representing the New York University, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the County Medical Society—these gentlemen being severally the presiding officers of these chartered institutions, and presumed to represent the profession. The meeting was largely attended, and after the mutual interchange of opinions, a large committee were appointed to prepare and report to a subsequent meeting, a constitution and by-laws for the "Academy." None but *regular* practitioners are to be admitted, and it is designed to include all such, and exclude all others. Besides the advantages of social intercourse among its members, and the mutual recognition and fellowship, which will flow from such an organization, it is proposed to have erected a hall for the meetings of the Academy, devoted to professional purposes. It is confidently anticipated that this organization will serve important and useful purposes in maintaining the dignity, promoting the harmony, and adding to the respectability of the profession, by excluding the irregular and unworthy from recognition, and enabling the intelligent portion of the public to discriminate who are, and who are not, regular practitioners. The recent abolition of the laws of the State against quackery, has rendered such discrimination otherwise impossible.

Letheon in New York.—The apparatus and ethereal vapor introduced to the profession by Dr. Morton, of Boston, for producing insensibility and unconsciousness during dental and other surgical operations, have been tried with more or less success in New York, for a few weeks. Dr. Kimball, who is agent for the city, has fully succeeded in several cases of the extraction of teeth, and he has administered the inhalation of the vapor to several patients, upon whom Dr. Cox has performed minor operations, the painfulness of which is described by the sufferers to have been inconsiderable, and in one or two cases the patient has been entirely unconscious of any sensation. Dr. Mott removed a tumor from the axilla of a young lady, a few days since, which required an incision through the integument of some six inches in length, which was made without pain, or any sensation whatever, as was also a portion of the dissection. The effects of the inhalation partially subsided before the operation was concluded, so that the patient recovered a kind of dreamy consciousness, but experienced very little suffering.

Dr. Kimball superintends the experiments, and is disposed liberally to afford opportunities to the profession for testing the success of this new auxiliary to practical surgery. It will soon be tried in the practice of the New York Hospital, a committee having been appointed for the purpose. Thus far, there is a disposition to regard the subject with favor, and worthy of further inquiry. Of its value, if fully successful, there can be but one opinion.

Bi-lateral Operation of Lithotomy.—Professor Parker has twice, during the past week, performed the bi-lateral operation of lithotomy upon boys of from two to three years old. In both cases the calculi were adherent to the bladder, and in one of them the stone was very large. The patients, thus far, promise to do well.

Drs. Mott and Francis.—Your New York correspondent inadvertently omitted the name of Dr. Valentine Mott among the worthies he enumerated, as constituting the predecessors of the present Faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of whom he, and his former associate Dr. Francis, are the only survivors. The latter gentleman has retired from the labor of teaching, but the reputation he has earned in the department of which he so long held the professorship, both by his lectures and by his writings, is undiminished, and he holds a high rank among his fellows as a practitioner. In juridical medicine, Dr. Francis has no superior, his opinions being sought by the bar, and commanding the confidence of the bench and jury to an extent which is awarded to no other, so high is the estimate placed upon his attainments and experience; while his profound and varied acquirements in scholastic medicine, are justly appreciated, and place him upon the proud elevation which his devotion to the science during a whole life has merited. By his contributions to general literature and science he has distinguished himself out of the profession, and gained an enviable character among American scholars, both at home and abroad. And in the historical and biographical departments of literature alone, he will go down to posterity as pre-eminently worthy of an exalted reputation. He is still actively and ardently pursuing his profession, and cultivating science with exemplary diligence, and possesses the high regards of the public as well as of the fraternity, who

look upon him as a representative of the old school of physicians, personifying as he does their learning and worth.

Dr. Mott, his ancient colleague and friend, occupies the position of Professor of Surgery in the University of the city of New York, over the Faculty of which he presides. His health being fully established by his European residence, he devotes himself to the labors of the profession, both as a teacher and practitioner, with so much zeal and activity, that he seems to have renewed his youth. As a successful surgeon, he stands deservedly at the head of this department in America, and is known and honored as such abroad. His name is a tower of strength for the Medical College with which he is associated, and his professional reputation secures him an extensive and lucrative practice. His long experience as a teacher, renders him so familiar with this department, that his lectures afford him an opportunity of condensing and arranging his varied resources of practical knowledge apparently without effort, for the benefit of his large class of students, and the numerous physicians who daily profit by his instructions. Their publication in *extenso* will be an invaluable legacy to posterity.

Medical Miscellany.—Another great discovery is announced in France by M. Pelouze, the chemist, viz., priming gun cotton with fulminating mercury. The same great man proposes to feed mankind on wood. Old bedsteads, broken chairs, and fractured table legs, yield, it is said, azote enough to sustain the invading army of Mexico.—A special act was passed by the Legislature of Vermont, at the last session, against attempts to produce abortions unlawfully.—Dr. Holbrook, of Charleston, S. C., is about publishing a work on the ichthyology of South Carolina.—Dr. W. A. Cain has been elected Lieut. Governor of South Carolina.—Influenza is raging extensively in the city and neighborhood of Philadelphia.—Dr. Heller, of Vienna, has prepared gun tow, equal in power to the cotton, and some think superior.—A French physician has invented a new ear trumpet.—Six princes and several princesses of the court of Persia have been cut off by the cholera. The disease is still spreading rapidly, and has taken the course towards Astrachan and Moscow.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A communication from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, and one from "Claudian," on the Ethereal Vapor, have been received.—An extra of eight pages is again sent out with to-day's Journal. Subscribers are reminded of the importance of preserving it, as if lost it will be missed in the volume when bound.

MARRIED.—In New York, J. Kearney Rodgers, M.D. to Miss Emily Hosack, daughter of the late celebrated Dr. David Hosack.—Wm. M. Barrett, M.D., of Baldwinville, Mass., to Miss L. B. Furbush.

DIED.—At St. Thomas, John T. Hughes, M.D., formerly surgeon in the U. S. A., of consumption, 26.—Dr. Wm. B. Reed, of Amherst, Mass., 34.—In Springfield, Mass., Dr. Ede Whitaker, 74.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Dec. 19th. 37.—Males, 14—females, 23.—Stillborn, 7. Of consumption, 6—child-bed, 1—disease of the brain, 1—typhus fever, 1—old age, 2—lung fever, 4—croup, 2—dropsy on the brain, 1—pleurisy, 2—inflammation of the lungs, 2—disease of the liver, 1—suicide, 1—disease of the heart, 1—dysentery, 1—paralysis, 2—infantile, 2—dropsy, 1—scarlet fever, 2—disease of the bowels, 1—teething, 1—convulsions, 1—cancer, 1.

Under 5 years, 16—between 5 and 20 years, 1—between 20 and 40 years, 8—between 40 and 60 years, 7—over 60 years, 5.

Attenuation of Medicines.—In accordance with the long-established usage of this Journal, to allow every person of respectability connected with the profession, to write upon whatever subject he may deem important to the interests of physicians and of humanity, an article was published on the 11th of Nov. entitled *Homœopathy in Europe*, the statements resting wholly on the responsibility of the author. When the editors of the New York Homœopathic Journal saw it, they seem to have been shocked, —and in their reply to it say that they dare not ask the editor of the Boston Journal to insert the whole of their comments upon our article, —“but we do ask him, as an act of justice, that he will give his readers such portions of it as will correct the imposition practised upon him by, we do not know who.”

Some heterodox sentiments must have been prominent in the paper alluded to, better understood by our friends Drs. Kirby and Snow, than by ourselves. We make no pretensions whatever even to an intimate acquaintance with the literature of homœopathy, much less the details of practice. Of course we have had no practical acquaintance with *high or low potencies*, terms so handily bandied about by the new school practitioners. However, we are desirous of having the right of things on whatever topic our correspondents choose to discourse, and should feel injured by any imposition that might be practised upon us, through our ignorance of homœopathic science or chronology.

“The real issue,” say the editors alluded to, “is this—that some, professing to be homœopaths, from ignorance, indolence or hypocrisy, employ venesection, blisters, cathartics, emetics or revulsive and antiphatic measures in the treatment of disease, to the great scandal of Homœopathy. The pure homœopaths or disciples of Hahnemann reject such means, and denounce as mongrels all who employ them. We have stated again and again, that if the doctrine of the dynamization of medicines be acknowledged, he who sees fit to use the 1st or 3d attenuations in diseases may be as sound a homœopathist, so far as principles are concerned, as he who uses exclusively the 30th or the higher; from necessity, this must be left to the judgment of the physician.”

“At Philadelphia, that the doctrine of high potencies was extensively discussed and almost unanimously adopted as the only true method of treating disease, is a complete falsehood, and could only have originated with a man who was not present, or probably *not allowed* to be present. The further remark, ‘in what estimation these opinions are held by some of the most eminent physicians of Germany,’ proves the complete ignorance of the writer. There was not a single eminent physician of Germany at the meeting at Leipsic, the less of the ‘most eminent,’ the meeting was poorly attended and a mere formal affair.”

Somebody must understand this insinuation *about the man not allowed to be present*, and we look with longing eyes for more light upon the subject.

Medicinal Preparations.—Country practitioners who examine the advertisement of Messrs. Colcord, Philbrick & Co., druggists, of Boston, will discover that they have a rare stock of medicines, of great value, since all the new preparations are imported from the first manufacturing chemists in Europe, and may be relied upon as genuine. There is no preparation prescribed for the cure of diseases which cannot be obtained at their house, in its purity.